News Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDMONTON 2007
CULTURAL CAPITALE CAPITAL CULTURELLE of CANADA de CANADA

Edmonton's mosquito control program taking flight

Edmonton, April 8, 2008 – The City of Edmonton's Mosquito Control Program will see helicopters in the air as soon as Wednesday, weather and wind conditions permitting.

The City takes a proactive approach to mosquito management by targeting the insects when they are concentrated in number, vulnerable and confined to standing water. Mosquito control is conducted using helicopter and ground-based crews following the spring snowmelt and after heavy summer rainfall. Eliminating mosquito larvae in standing water is considerably safer and more environmentally sound than controlling airborne adult mosquitoes.

"So far, even with the recent snowfall, conditions in and around Edmonton are fairly dry," said Mike Jenkins of Pest Management Services. "With the dry conditions, the snowmelt should be easily absorbed. Future conditions will depend on how much rainfall occurs throughout April and May."

All mosquito control products used by the City of Edmonton are approved by Health Canada and are considered safe for their intended use. Residents do not need to take any special precautions during spraying. City mosquito control staff follow strict guidelines for applying mosquito control products and are certified by Alberta Environment.

A detailed map of the control area is available at edmonton.ca/pest.

The City of Edmonton will monitor for *Culex tarsalis*, the mosquito species that can carry and spread West Nile virus (WNV). No positive mosquito pools were found in the Edmonton region in 2007 however, nine cases of West Nile Virus were reported to Capital Health officials with two cases contracted locally.

If public health officials deem it necessary to control *Culex* mosquitoes, control programs will begin in July. Control programs do not eliminate the risk of humans contracting WNV so citizens can protect themselves from mosquito bites by using insect repellent.

For more information about the City of Edmonton's Mosquito Control Program call Pest Management at 496-6903, or visit edmonton.ca/pest.

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About Edmonton:

This is a city alive with energy and boundless opportunity - a growing economic powerhouse where business thrives and more than a million lives enjoy the freedom to explore, experiment, experience, excel and expect the most out of every day. A place like no other, Edmonton is filled with surprises great and small and a calendar packed with artistic, sporting, theatrical and cultural celebration.

For more information on Edmonton, please visit our website at: www.edmonton.ca.

For additional information, contact:

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For health risk questions related to West Nile Virus (WNV), call Dr. Gerry Predy at 780-413-7600.

THE CITY OF Edmonton